

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of light generators;
an image transfer mechanism;
a plurality of image forming cartridges corresponding to the plurality of light generators, each image forming cartridge having a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding light generator and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position; and
a housing including respective slots corresponding to the light generators, the slots positioned to allow light beams emitted from said light generators to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions, the housing configured to house the plurality of light generators one above another.

Claim 44. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of light generators are positioned to emit light through the respective slots to the image forming cartridges.

Claim 45. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:

the plurality of image forming cartridges respectively correspond on a one-to-one basis with the plurality of light generators.

Claim 46. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of light generators emit light in a generally horizontal direction to a respective one of said plurality of image forming cartridges.

Claim 47. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of image forming cartridges develop therein a latent image on the photoconductive drum thereof formed by the respective light generator.

Claim 48. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of image forming cartridges each contain a different color toner.

Claim 49. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, the image transfer mechanism comprising:

a vertically arranged belt arranged to convey a medium to the transfer positions of each of the plurality of image forming cartridges in order to form an image on the medium.

Claim 50. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the housing is configured to house the plurality of light generators without housing the image forming cartridges.

Claim 51. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of light generating means for generating light;

an image transfer means;

a plurality of image forming means for forming images thereon, the plurality of image forming means corresponding to the plurality of light generating means, each image forming means having a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding light generator and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position; and

a housing means for housing elements of said apparatus, said housing means including respective slots corresponding to the light generating means, the slots positioned to allow the light beams emitted from said light generating means to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions, the housing means configured to house the plurality of light generating means one above another.

Claim 52. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:

the plurality of light generating means are positioned to emit light through the respective slots to the image forming means.

Claim 53. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:

the plurality of image forming means respectively correspond on a one-to-one basis with the plurality of light generating means.

Claim 54. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:

the plurality of light generating means emit light in a generally horizontal direction to a respective one of said plurality of image forming means.

Claim 55. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:

the plurality of image forming means develop therein a latent image on the photoconductive drum thereof formed by the respective light generating means.

Claim 56. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of image forming means each contain a different color toner.

Claim 57. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, the image transfer means comprising:

a vertically arranged belt arranged to convey a medium to the transfer positions of each of the plurality of image forming cartridges in order to form an image on the medium.

Claim 58. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the housing means is configured to house the plurality of light generating means without housing the image forming means.

Claim 59. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an apparatus body;
an image transfer element
a plurality of optical writing devices;
a plurality of image forming cartridges corresponding to the plurality of optical writing devices, arranged one above another, and removably mounted to said apparatus body, each including at least one photoconductive element having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding optical writing device, and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position;

a vertical stay disposed between the optical writing devices and the image forming cartridges;

a plurality of image forming cartridge supporting members corresponding to each of the image forming cartridges, and being attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body; and

a plurality of optical writing device supporting members corresponding to each of the optical writing devices, and being attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body.

Claim 60. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:

the image forming cartridge supporting members, the vertical stay, the optical writing device supporting members, and the apparatus body comprise a single structural body.

Claim 61. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:

said vertical stay extends from a top to a bottom of the apparatus body.

Claim 62. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:

said optical writing devices emit a plurality of light beams toward said photoconductive elements through slots included in the vertical stay.

Claim 63. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:

said optical writing devices are spaced from said photoconductive elements by a predetermined distance.

Claim 64. (New) An image forming cartridge, comprising:

a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position arranged to face a corresponding light generator and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position, wherein

 said image forming cartridge is configured to be arranged above a second image forming cartridge having a second exposure position and a second transfer position, the second exposure position arranged to face a corresponding second light generator and the second transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the second exposure position.

Claim 65. (New) The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:

 said image forming cartridge is configured to be arranged relative to said corresponding light generator so that light emitted by said corresponding light generator passes in a generally horizontal direction.

Claim 66. (New) The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:

 said photoconductive drum is configured to form a latent image therein.

Claim 67. (New) The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:

 the image forming cartridge is configured to contain a color toner.